RURAL DISTRICT

OF

LODDON AND CLAVERING.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

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Loddon and Clavering Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the year ending 1913.

To the CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS of the
LODDON & CLAVERING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Report for the year 1913.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The area of the District is 59,116 acres—it is almost entirely an Agricultural District, with a considerable acreage of Marshland; the whole district is somewhat flat and low-lying. The population at the Census of 1911 was 12,550 and I am of the opinion that it has not increased or decreased to any noticeable extent. The number of inhabited houses was 3000, thus giving an average of 4·18 persons to each house. This number remains practically the same, as where any houses have been demolished, new ones have been built to take their place. The number of houses in the district as a whole is probably sufficient to meet the demand; but there are certain Parishes where there is a need for more cottages suitable in size and of a fair rent especially in Loddon and Chedgrave. The higher rates in the Towns cause many people of slender means to retire to end their days in our country villages, and these people take the cottages which are required by the labouring man—also we have in this district a very considerable population of fishermen. I think that undoubtedly more cottages are needed in some Parishes. At the present moment of writing, returns of the number of uninhabited cottages are being asked for and also each Parish Council is being requested to state whether more cottages are needed in each Parish. Such returns will enable a definite opinion to be formed. There is no occupation in the District which one can regard as detrimental to the Public Health—the district being extremely healthy.

Water Supply.

This is on the whole good—no wells have been found to be polluted. There is no public water service in the district; the water is obtained from deep and shallow wells according to the locality. In some districts the water supply is insufficient and bad, the cottagers depending on ponds for their drinking water and in many instances, I fear, they do not boil it. One well was closed for drinking purposes. Two new ones were sunk.

Milk Supply.

The various Dairies and Cowsheds have been systematically inspected by your Inspector. All the defects found were promptly remedied; these are seen in the table at the end of the report.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS. The total number of births for the year was 275, four more than in 1912, and giving a birth rate of 21·91. The number of illegitimate births was 15.

Deaths.

The total number of Deaths registered in the District was 171 giving a death rate of 13·6. Eight of these were transferred away to other districts and six were transferred here making a total of 169 and a true death rate of 13·46, exactly the same as last year. Ninety-two deaths occurred in people over 65 years of age, and there were only 8 deaths between one year and twenty-five years, a very satisfactory rate. There were 19 deaths in the two Public Institutions in the district, and four of those occurring in Ditchingham Hospital were transferred away. There were 19 deaths from Cancer, the same amount as in 1911; 22 from Organic Heart Disease and 13 from Tuberculosis.

Infantile Mortality.

Last year I was glad to be able to state that this rate had decreased very much. It has again gone up, but not nearly so high as in 1911. There were 27 deaths giving a rate per 1000 births of 98·18 compared with 88·56 in 1912 and 113·55 in 1911. There were no deaths from Diarrhœa; four were due to Premature Birth, and three to Tubercular Disease. One illegitimate child died under one year. Full particulars are appended in Table IV.

Zymotic Diseases.

During the past year there were 95 cases notified to me, 34 of which were Tuberculosis and 15 Erysipelas. There were no cases of Acute Cerebro-Spinal Fever or Acute Poliomyelitis or Typhoid Fever. There was one case of Puerperal Fever of a mild Type.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 22 cases reported during the year, chiefly during April and May. They were scattered over the district, viz:—

Kirby Cane	4 cases.	Thurton	2 cases.
Raveningham	2 ,,	Gillingham	2 ,,
Topcroft	4 ,,	Bedingham	2 ,,
Hellington	1 ,,	Woodton	1 ,,
Ellingham	2 ,,	Chedgrave	2 ,,

The 7 cases in Topcroft, Bedingham and Woodton were no doubt spread from the first case in Topcroft, the others were isolated cases where it was impossible to trace any source of infection.

Diphtheria.

There were 23 cases. There was only one case notified until September 30th; then there was an outbreak of very mild cases chiefly in children attending Raveningham and Yelverton Schools. The majority of these cases presented practically no typical signs, and were only diagnosed by swabs being taken of their throats and the resulting culture examined microscopically. Many of these cases were discovered by the School Medical Officers on their round of inspection. So mild were most of the cases that there was much grumbling at the Schools being closed, but had one fatal case occurred Dr. Nash and myself would have

immediately been blamed. On inspecting the children at Raveningham School at the end of October and taking swabs of those who had either slight reddening of the tonsils or discharge from the nose, we found five more children with the Diphtheria bacillus present. No child was allowed back to School until a negative swab had been obtained. Except for three cases in one family at Haddiscoe Station, there were no further cases.

Small Pox.

No cases. We are again without any Cottage for isolating any patient. The number of exemptions from Vaccination steadily increases.

Tuberculosis.

Thirty-four cases were notified—21 being cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and thirteen other forms of Tuberculosis; at least ten of these cases after treatment and consultation with the Tuberculosis Officer for the County were decided not to be Tubercular cases. Three cases were operated on and so far appear to be cured. Six of these 34 cases died during the year, but the total number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the year was 13, the other 7 cases having been notified in 1912. I still think that for various reasons all the cases of Tuberculosis are not notified. The position of the District M.O.H. in cases of Tuberculosis is at present very difficult; there needs to be more co-operation between him, the Medical Attendant and the County Tuberculosis Officer. He never hears whether Sanatorium Benefit or Domiciliary Treatment has been granted and is generally in a complete fog as to what is occurring.

Isolation Hospital.

There is none in the District and one has heard nothing lately of the proposed County Scheme of erecting two or three such hospitals in various parts of the County.

Schools.

The Schools are all in a Sanitary condition; several have been closed for various periods due to outbreaks of Diphtheria (2), Scarlet Fever and Measles.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Both in 1911 and in 1912 I drew attention to the want of a Scavenging Scheme for Loddon—this I am glad to say is now accomplished and, so far as one can judge in so short a time, appears to be entirely satisfactory. The cost at first seems somewhat heavy owing to the initial outlay for a properly equipped cart, but will be less next year, and the actual benefit to the health of the Parish must prove in time to be inestimable. In the rest of the District 49 Privies have been converted into the Pail System, and 15 vaults have been reduced in size and ventilated. Various other improvements have also been carried out.

Housing and Town Planning Act.

Under Article 5 of the above Act, the following table gives the required information according to Section 17 of the Act.

Number of Dwelling Houses inspected	321
Number which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing order	Nil
Number of closing orders made	Nil
The number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	Nil

Number of dwelling houses which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation	Nil
Number of Houses in which defects were found and remedied	192

The two houses found unfit for human habitation were voluntarily closed.

The general character of the defects found to exist were dampness, due to defective roofs, absence of or defective troughing, defective floors, poor ventilation and insufficient size or absence of windows.

No representation has so far been actually made as to houses being required, but I have no doubt most people require an extra bedroom. As I pointed out in 1912 the majority of the houses have only two bedrooms which is in most cases insufficient from both a health and moral point of view, and an extra bedroom also would give some facility for isolation in cases of infectious disease, especially as we possess no Isolation Hospital.

About half the houses in the district have now been inspected and much good work has been done by your Inspector both under the above Act and in general inspections, as will be seen by the following table showing the number of visits and inspections made.

Nuisances	1784
House to House Inspection	371
Infectious Diseases—Visits	67
Complaints investigated	13
Houses disinfected	32
Slaughter Houses inspected	4
Bakehouses	5
Dairies	66
Cowsheds	156
Milkshops	4
Petrol Stores	18

Factories and Workshops.

These are mainly of a domestic character employing very few hands, there being no factories.

Tables giving a Summary of the work done and also of the Vital Statistics are appended.

In conclusion I wish to thank your Sanitary Inspector for his valuable help and co-operation, and you, Gentlemen, for your courtesy to myself.

Yours faithfully,

LAWSON TAIT McCLINTOCK,

M.B.; Ch.; B.; Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1914.

Table I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous years.

LODDON AND CLAVERING RURAL DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	12033	298	298	24·93	157	13·03	..	..	19	63·76	157	13·03
1909	11993	285	285	23·84	157	13·09	..	..	23	..	157	13·09
1910	11953	267	267	22·33	153	12·8	..	..	20	..	153	12·8
1911	12550	273	273	21·7	188	14·9	0	16	31	113·55	204	16·2
1912	12550	271	271	21.59	161	12·9	2	10	24	88·56	169	13·46
1913	12550	275	275	21·91	171	13·6	8	6	27	98·18	169	13·46

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 59,116.

Total population at all ages..... 12,550
Number of inhabited houses..... 3,000
Average number of persons per house 4·18
} At the Census of 1911

Table II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

LODDON AND CLAVERING RURAL DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.								Total Cases notified in each Locality. (e.g. Parish or Ward of the District.)							Total Cases Removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		Under 1	1 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs	65 and upwards.								
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	23	..	2	16	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	15	..	..	2	1	7	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	22	..	2	17	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	..	..	4	7	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	13	..	2	3	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	95	..	6	42	16	26	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Isolation Hospital or Sanatoria.—None.

Table III.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

LODDON AND CLAVERING RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occuring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" r "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes	Certified ..	164	26	—	2	1	5	14	27	89	15
	Uncertified ..	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
Enteric Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever		1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza		2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Erysipelas		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)		8	..	..	..	..	3	4	1	..	1
Tuberculosis Meningitis ..		2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases		3	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant Disease ..		19	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	12	2
Rheumatic Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease ..		22	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	17	3
Bronchitis		13	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	1
Pneumonia (all forms)		7	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs		2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver		..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism		2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease		3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Puerperal Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition		4	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth		8	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide		5	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	..
Suicides		1	.	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other defined Diseases ..		67	6	..	1	1	1	2	9	47	5
Diseases ill-defined or unknown		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals		169	27	..	2	1	5	14	28	92	15

Table IV.—Infantile Mortality during the year 1913.

LODDON AND CLAVERING RURAL DISTRICT.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total under 1 year.
All Causes.	Certified ..	5		5	2	12	6	1	3	4	26
	Uncertified ..							1			1
Small-pox		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Meningitis *(not Tuberculous)* ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Convulsions		..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	4
Laryngitis		..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Bronchitis		..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa		..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	4
Enteritis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlying ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Atelectasis		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Malformations		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth		3	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	4
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		..	..	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	3
Other causes		..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
		5		5	2	12	6	2	3	4	27

Nett Births in the year { legitimate—260. illegitimate—15.

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants—26. illegitimate infants—1.

LAWSON TAIT McCLINTOCK, *Medical Officer of Health.*

March 21st, 1914

Summary of Work done by Sanitary Officer.

Drainage.

Obstructed drains cleansed ...	5
Yards of pipe drain laid ...	350
Glazed stoneware gullies fixed ...	19
Drains removed from inside houses ...	3
Intercepting traps fixed ...	2
Inspection chambers provided ...	6
New cesspool	1
Cesspools cleaned and ventilated ...	4
Cesspool filled up	1

Water Closets, Privies and Urinals.

Soil pipe removed from inside to outside house	1
Extra privies provided	8
Privies converted to pail system ...	49
Privies rebuilt or repaired ...	16
New seats to old privies ...	27
New concrete floors	73
Filthy privies cleaned and whitewashed	3
New covers to old privy vaults ...	17
Vaults reduced in size and ventilated	15
New doors to privies	7
New pails to old privies ...	23

Dwelling Houses.

Filthy houses cleaned	5
House and shed roofs repaired ...	54
Houses re-roofed	5
Dangerous stairs repaired ...	18
House ceilings repaired ...	26
Sink pipes provided	5
Houses closed	2
Overcrowding abated	—
Windows enlarged and made to open	62
Eaves' spouting renewed or repaired	32
Dangerous stoves reset	12
Dangerous building pulled down ...	1
House walls treated with damp resister or otherwise made dry ...	41
New pantries built and old ventilated	46
Dangerous chimneys and flues rebuilt	22
House walls repaired	32
New floors provided or repaired ...	67
Bedrooms ventilated and extra light	23
Sanitary improvements to Schools ...	1

Water Supply.

Wells deepened and cleaned ...	2
New wells sunk	2
New covers to wells	9
Well closed for drinking ...	1

Keeping of Animals and Manure.

Animals improperly kept, removed	2
Accumulation of manure removed ...	4
Manure bins provided	2
Cowsheds—Insufficient drainage remedied	10
Cowshed floors paved and relaid ...	5
Insufficient light remedied ...	5
Insufficient ventilation „ ...	3
Dairies cleaned on notice ...	1
Pigs kept contrary to regulations ...	2

Miscellaneous.

Cowsheds limewashed on notice ...	18
Slaughterhouses inspected ...	4
Bakehouses „	5
Petrol inspections	18